

University of Virginia, Pavilion VIII
East Lawn, University of Virginia Campus
Charlottesville
Virginia

HABS No. VA-193-L

HABS
VA,
2-CHAR,
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA,
PAVILION VIII

HABS No. VA-193-L

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Location: East Lawn
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia

UTM 17.719080.4212360
USGS Charlottesville West Quadrangle
7.5 Minute Series 1973

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Present Owner: University of Virginia

Present Use: Pavilion VIII is presently used in accordance with its original design. Thomas Jefferson designed the main floor to be used for classrooms with the professor living above. Today, a professor also lives in an apartment that was created in the cellar.

Present Occupant: The professors who reside in Pavilion VIII are Steven Percy, who is an Assistant Professor of Government and Foreign Affairs, and Robert Huskey, who is Associate Dean of Graduate Arts and Sciences as well as a Biology Professor.

Significance: Pavilion VIII is one of the ten pavilions, along with the Rotunda, which make up Thomas Jefferson's Academical Village. Each of the pavilions is different and was intended to serve as architectural models of good taste to the gentlemen attending "The University". The classical orders of the pavilion's were derived from Andrea Palladio's Four books of Architecture and Freart de Chambray's Parallele de l'Architecture. Jefferson designed all five of the pavilions on the east lawn in fifteen days in mid-June 1819. The corinthian order of Pavilion VIII was adapted from Diocletian's Baths as illustrated by Chambray. This adaptation of classical models to American architecture and education reveal Jefferson's thoughts on the importance of education to maintaining freedom in our self governing republic.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The founding of the University of Virginia was considered by Jefferson to be one of the three most important accomplishments in his life. The other two were his drafting of the Declaration of Independence and his authorship of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. He believed that education was the key to preserving the liberty this country had obtained.

The founding of the University, however was not a simple task. In 1735, the first patent to the land the University would sit on was granted to Abraham Lewis. Jefferson had always dreamt of an academical village. By 1810, his ideas had formed into "a small and separate lodge for each professorship, with only a hall below for his class, and two chambers above for himself; joining these lodges by barracks for a certain portion of the students, opening into a covered way to give a dry communication between all schools." (Bruce, Vol. 1, p. 179) A charter was granted in 1814 to form Central College with Jefferson, James Monroe, and James Madison as its Board of Visitors. In 1816, the college was established with Alexander Garret as proctor, and he purchased the land on June 23, 1817 for \$1421.25. This land was purchased from John M. Perry and his wife Frances, and included two parcels which were "one mile above Charlottesville on the publik road to Staunton." (DB20, p. 356)

The first piece of land was 43 acres and the second was "153 acres, 5/8 of a mile away and being the top and part of a mountain"(DB20,p.356) upon which the University was built. In 1817, the General Assembly of Virginia, after a bitter fight from the partisans of William and Mary, passed a bill to establish a state university. The board of commissioners selected to pick a site examined Lexington and Staunton before choosing Charlottesville and granting the charter for the University of Virginia in 1819.

Jefferson's final plan for the academical village called for ten pavilions as "models of taste and good architecture"(Bruce,Vol.1,p.184) flanking a central rotunda. No two of the pavilions were to be alike and they were to be "specimens for the Architectural lecturer."(Bruce,Vol.1,p.184) The orders for the pavilions were derived from Andrea Palladio's Four Books on Architecture and from Freart de Chambray's Parallelele de l'Architecture. The cornerstone for the first pavilion,number VII, was laid in 1817. The five pavilions that define east lawn were designed from June 12 to June 27, 1819. The corinthian order of Diocletion's's Baths was derived from the 1766 edition of Parallelele (First published in 1650). The original building was constructed from April 1821 to September 1824.

Many contractors and local workmen of Jefferson's did work at the University. The lumber and carpentry was done by James Dinsmore, who received \$4192.24 1/2. John M. Perry and Abiah B. Thorn supplied the bricks for \$1739.64. Perry also

received \$544.49 for his brickwork around the pavilion. The stone around Charlottesville was too hard to carve; therefore, Bernard Peyton went to Carrara, Italy and paid \$643.03 for Marble corinthian capitals. Edward Lawber, of Philadelphia, did the glazing and painting; while W.J. Coffee, another northern artisan, received \$39.50 for his work on the ornaments in the pavilion. The total cost of Pavilion VIII was \$10,786.86. This was about average for a pavilion. In 1828, the ledger notes \$236,678 had been spent on residential buildings for the University and \$57,749 for the Rotunda, which became the library.

The first professor to live and teach in Pavilion VIII was Mr. Charles Bonnycastle, one of the first professors and a lecturer on Natural Philosophy. Professors were paid a salary of \$1,500, as well as a \$25 fee for each student. This system emphasized a teachers ability to teach. The pavilion's residents were distinguished men at the University and later had student residences' named in their honor. Professor R.E. Rogers followed Professor Bonnycastle. In 1856, due to the growth in students at the University, the central hall was extended and two back rooms were added. After Rogers, was Professor J.L. Smith, then Professor Maupin, and then Professor J.S. Davis. Around the mid 1800's, the pavilions were no longer used for classes due to the inability of some professors to fill the halls and because the professors' wives needed the lecture rooms for dining rooms and reception halls, which shut out the

students except as social visitors. Following Professor Davis was Professor Venable, Professor Echols, and Dr. Harvey Jordan. In the 1948, University President Colgate Darden moved his office from Pavilion IV to Pavilion VIII. This conversion to office space left exposed heating pipes, harsh fluorescent lights, and accoustical ceiling tiles to detract from the Pavilions beauty.

After University President Frank Hereford moved his offices from Pavilion VIII to Stanford White's Madison Hall, the pavilion was able to be restored. Beginning in January 1985, the restoration workers used surgical scalpels to remove paint layers to determine the original colors. Workers were also trained in the delicate art of "graining". This process of finishing pine to resemble mahogany was practiced in Jefferson's day to save money. All wiring and piping was concealed in the baseboards, walls, and ceilings and the wood floors were restored to natural wood and costing \$500,000-\$600,000. The pavilion is now the only one following the Jeffersonian tradition of living and teaching since the mid 1800's. Faculty living spaces occupy the second floor, where Professor Percy resides, and part of the cellar, which houses Professor Huskey. Conference rooms for classes occupy the main floor and the remaining space in the cellar. The classrooms are furnished with period pieces, which are sympathetic models of chairs and tables of 1822, when classes were first held in Pavilion VIII.

Pavilion VIII is now the only remnant of the original

idea of the academical village, that Dr. Fiske Kimball called the "greatest surviving masterpiece of the classical revival in America, the most magnificent architectural creation of its day on this side of the Atlantic." (Bruce, Vol. 1, p. 247) This idea was reaffirmed in 1976, when American Institute of Architects voted that the lawn and the academical village were the most significant piece of architecture in the United States in the past two hundred years. Because of these accolades, Pavilion VIII has been restored to its original glory of the Jeffersonian ideal of a place for education in order to protect American freedoms.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

Pavilion VIII, as well as the other pavilions and the Rotunda, is an example of the federal period. Jefferson very cleverly adapted the classical corinthian of Diocletian's's Baths to the new idea of one building for living and teaching. The building is in excellent condition because of the renovation and should remain that way unless the University changes its commitment to historic renovation.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Siting:

The Pavilion is one of five that make up the eastern edge of the lawn, which is headed by the Rotunda. The building faces west and has a French garden behind to the east. This garden is not to Jefferson's specifications because no records of what he intended for the gardens can be found. The garden has been restored and cared for by a Historic Garden Club. Seven student rooms flank the pavilion to the north and south under a doric colonade which runs the length of the lawn. Also in the garden is what

appears to be an old outhouse capable of fulfilling the needs of four people at once. The garden has a variety of trees which include:

AR/RM Acer Rubrum / Red Maple
AC/SS Amelanchier Candensis/Shadblow Serviceberry
CI/P Carya Illinoensis / Pecan
JR/PW Juglas Regia / Persian Walnut
KP/GR Koelreuteria Paniculata / Golden Rain Tree
MG/SM Magnolia Grandiflora / Southern Magnolia
SB/BW Salix Babylonica / Babylon Weeping Willow

2. Foundations:

The foundation is of structural brick laid in five course american bond. Above the water table, the walls become seven course american bond, except for the main facade which is done in flemish bond.

3. Porches:

Above the colonade is a separate professors walk which opens into a veranda in front of each pavilion. Pavilion VIII does not have a covered porch, and a bridge that links the pavilion and the porch.

4. Roof:

The roof was originally a parapet, but was probably changed to a hip roof when the addition in 1856 was completed. The roof is covered with copper and has one original chimney and one that was added in 1856. The copper roof has built in drains that funnel the water past the cornice and to the ground at the corners.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Cellar:

a. Hallway:

Originally there was a central hall which divided the cellar symmetrically. The hall has been divided to make storage closets. The hall is divided in thirds, with one third as a closet for Prof. Huskey's apartment and the remaining two thirds split by a steel fence and gate which holds cleaning supplies. The floor is a warm grey painted concrete.

The walls and ceiling are off white painted plaster.
Florescent Fixtures are hung from the ceiling.

b. North Room:

This room was probably a kitchen in its original state because of its extremely large fireplace.
The floor is carpeted in beige wall to wall. The walls and ceiling are off white painted plaster and gypsum board respectively. All three doors are board and batten with brass hardware. Two open onto the hall and one opens into what may have been the pantry. There are two windows, which are 6/6, on the north side.
Shelves have been built in the north east corner and also house a HVAC unit. Spotlights are recessed in the ceiling.

c. Pantry:

This room is now all pipes and ducts, with a small sink in the south east corner. The floor is grey concrete. The walls and ceiling are off white. The door is board and batten. The one window is boarded closed. Lighting is done by a ceiling spot and a florescent fixture over the sink. A large breaker box is on the north wall.

d. Vault:

This room was probably used as an ice box, but today it is a conduit for pipes. The floor walls and ceiling are brick. The ceiling is barrel vaulted. The door is board and batten, and opens onto the hall.
An air compressor is housed in this vault also.
Naked bulbs hang from the ceiling.

e. South east room:

This room is presently used as offices for the University Guide Service. The floor is beige wall to wall carpet. The walls and ceiling are off white. The board and batten door opens off the

stairwell.

One 6/6 window is on the south wall.
An HVAC unit sits under the window.
Lighting is provided by ceiling spots.

e. South west room:

This room is currently a bedroom in Prof. Huskey's apartment.
The floor is beige wall to wall carpet.
There is a 7 in. baseboard moulding.
There is a chair rail at 34 in.
The walls and ceiling are off white.
The Board and batten door opens onto the hall.
A 6/6 window faces south.
The HVAC unit sits under the window.
Ceiling Spots give light.

2. First Floor:

a. Entry Hall:

The floor is approximately 5in boards running east/west.
There is a 9 in baseboard moulding.
The top of the chair rail is 42 in.
The walls, ceiling, and cornice are beige.
The cornice is a federal period cyma piece.
The hall opens onto all rooms on the first floor. The doors are grained to give a mahogany look while using pine.
There are several glass plates above the door to the addition.
A Chandelier provides light.

b. North Room:

This room is presently used as a lounge.
The floor is 5in boards laid north/south.
The baseboard moulding is 8 1/2 in high.
The walls and ceiling are off white.
The cornice which is similar to the one in the hall is beige.
The door to the hall is grained.
There are two 6/6 windows to the north.
To the west is an arched window in which the 6/6 pattern becomes elegant tracery.
To the west also is a large greek revival arch to a study.
The fireplace mantle is also greek revival.
The north window sills are built out to conceal HVAC units.

Wall sconces provide the light.

c. Study: (North west corner)

The floor is 5in boards laid north/south.
The baseboard moulding is 8 1/2 in high.
The walls and ceiling are off white.
The door to the lounge through the greek revival arch is double swinging.
One window to the west is an arched tracery.
The HVAC unit is in a window cabinet similar to the lounge.
A ceiling spotlight feeds illumination.
There is a breaker box on the north wall.

d. South Room:

This room is currently used as a classroom.
The floor is 5 in boards running north/south
The baseboard moulding is 8 1/2 in high.
The top of the chair rail is at 34 in.
The walls and ceiling are painted yellow-green.
The cornice is more severe than in the lounge.
There are two doors, one to the hall and one to the stairwell.
Two 6/6 windows face south.
The chairs and tables in the room are reproductions of Jeffersonian Era furnishings.
The fireplace mantel is simple.
The HVAC is in window cabinets.
Wall sconces and ceiling spots provide light.

e. Stair:

The floor is 5in boards north/south
The baseboard moulding is 8 1/2 in.
The walls are blue and the ceiling is off white.
The cornice of the cellar level is a simple doric one, while the cornice on the second floor is more complex.
There are doors to the hall and the classroom.
There are two arched tracery windows to the west.
The HVAC unit is under the northern window.
A chandelier provides light.

3. Second Floor:

a. Hallway:

The floors on the second floor are 5in boards running east/west.
There is a 9in baseboard moulding.
The walls and ceiling are off white.
There are doors to every room on this floor and to the porch.
In the center of the hall a greek revival arch conceals the chimney flues.
The HVAC unit for the second floor is in a room in the attic which is accessed through a chippendale lattice east of the arch.
Lighting is provided by wall sconces.

b. North east room:

Today this room is used as a bedroom by Prof. Percy.
The baseboard moulding is 8 1/2 in.
The walls and ceiling are off white.
There is a large cyma moulding.
Doors open onto the hall and the north west room.
There is one 6/6 windows that face north.
There is a federal period fireplace mantel in which the fireplace is inaccessible.
HVAC ducts are in the ceiling.

c. North west room:

This room is currently used as a study.
There is an 8 1/2in baseboard moulding.
The walls and ceiling are off white.
There is a large cyma moulding.
Doors open onto the hall, bedroom and a small room to the north west which is used as a library.
There is one 6/6 windows which face north.
The fireplace mantel in this room is also inaccessible.
The HVAC has ducts in the ceiling.

d. Library:

There is an 8 1/2in baseboard moulding.
The walls and ceiling are off white.
A door opens from the study.
There are two 6/6 windows, one facing north and the other west.

e. South room:

This room is presently used as Prof. Percy's living room.
There is an 8 1/2in baseboard moulding.
The walls and ceiling are off white.
The cornice is a very elaborate cyma with a panel of bucarina.
Doors open to the stair and the hall. There is also a door to the east which does not open.
There are two 6/6 windows facing south.
The fireplace mantel is a large one from the federal period.
The HVAC ducts are in the ceiling.
Wall sconces provide light.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was recorded under the direction of K. Edward Lay, Professor of Architecture at the University of Virginia. The project was completed in the fall of 1987 as a requirement for ARCH 513 in the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia. The project was prepared by Brian E. Boehmcke, and Carlton R. Livermon, who were both undergraduate students in architectural design at the University of Virginia.

Holly K. Chamberlain, HABS historian, prepared the documentation for transmittal to the Library of Congress in January 1988.

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